

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

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## Six Tennessee Fleets certified as 2017 “Tennessee Green Fleets” AND Tennessee sees largest ever gathering of Alternative Fuel Vehicles

NASHVILLE, TN – On Tuesday, May 23, Tennessee Clean Fuels (TCF) announced and recognized six new fleets in its “Tennessee Green Fleets” Certification Program during the 3rd Annual Sustainable Transportation Awards & Forum (STA) at the Nashville Public Library. Later that evening, TCF assembled the largest-ever gathering of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) in Tennessee’s history with a showcase for event attendees of 40 AFVs near the Bridge Building at Nissan Stadium.

This is the second year of the Tennessee Green Fleets Certification Program, which was sponsored by ICOM North America, Lightning Systems, and Waste Management. Tennessee State Representative Charles Sargent was in attendance to help present the new fleets with their Tennessee Green Fleets certification awards.



**The Tennessee Green Fleets Certification Program** was developed by the East and Middle-West Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalitions to utilize performance-based metrics to analyze fleets’ vehicle and fuel-use data and to compare reductions achieved in gasoline-use and carbon emissions, and increases in the number of AFVs or advanced technology vehicles in the fleet to previous years. Fleets are awarded points based on their achievement in these categories, and are awarded certifications based on the number of points at a 1-, 2- or 3-star level. The program encompasses all fuel and technology options including biodiesel, natural gas, propane, electric, ethanol, hybrid, plug-in hybrid, idle-reduction and fuel economy strategies. Certified fleets can promote their greening efforts and include the certification and accolade in its sustainability portfolio information.



The 2017 inductees into the program are:

### 1-Star fleets:

- Piedmont Natural Gas – Tennessee Fleet
- City of Sevierville
- Knoxville Utilities Board
- Middle Tennessee Natural Gas

### 2-Star Fleets

- Sevier County Utilities District
- Franklin Transit Authority – TMA Group

In 2016, these six fleets combined reduced the equivalent use of 140,000 gallons of petroleum and prevented over 300 tons of carbon dioxide emissions through their use of alternative fuels and advanced vehicle technologies.



*Pictured, left to right – Seated: Chris Wilson, Knoxville Utilities Board; Melissa Goldberg, East Tennessee Clean Fuels, Debbie Henry, The TMA Group; Eddie Davidson, Piedmont Natural Gas; Molly Cripps, TDEC's Office of Energy Programs. Standing: Jonathan Overly, East Tennessee Clean Fuels; Stanton Higgs, The TMA Group; Matt Stennett, Middle Tennessee Natural Gas Utility District; Representative Charles Sargent; Jim Dennison, City of Sevierville; Alan Devan, Sevier County Utility District; Alexa Voytek, TDEC's Office of Energy Programs and Middle-West Tennessee Clean Fuels; David Nestor, Piedmont Natural Gas.*

On Tuesday evening, TCF assembled the largest-ever gathering of AFVs in Tennessee's history – 40. The vehicles included electric and hybrid, propane autogas, compressed and liquefied natural gas (CNG and LNG), the biofuels ethanol and biodiesel, hydrogen, and even a few bicycles, and were provided by over 30 different entities in Tennessee and included UPS, FedEx Express, Knoxville Utilities Board, Waste Management, Lightning Systems, Icom North America, Piedmont Natural Gas, Gibson County Utility District, Franklin Transit Authority, Alliance Autogas, and City of Nashville... to name a few. After the STA wrapped up at the Public Library, attendees rode a dedicated propane-powered school bus from Clarksville Montgomery County School System and then toured all of the vehicles with fuel and technology introductions along the way.



**About Tennessee Clean Fuels:** <http://www.TNCleanFuels.org> – The Middle-West and East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalitions are both 501(c)3 nonprofits working with fleets across Tennessee to reduce dependence on petroleum and improve air quality and sustainability. The two coalitions are part of the DOE Clean Cities Program and respectively serve the western and eastern halves of Tennessee. They work to develop partnerships that assist fleets in meeting their goals toward reducing fleet costs while implementing petroleum-saving technologies and the use of cleaner fuels.